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Worker struck by truck door gets \$3.1m to settle lawsuit - Scrap - Michael Schultz, Camden Iron an Metal Inc

American Metal Market, Nov 8, 2002 by Joseph McCann

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PHILADELPHIA -- A former employée at Camden Iron & Metal Inc. will receive \$3.1 million out-of-court settlement of a lawsuit.

Michael Schultz was a yard supervisor at the Camden, N.J., company in 1999 when an ac left the then-38-year-old with chronic pain throughout his left side.

According to published reports, attorneys representing the scrap metal processor decided settle for \$2.6 million rather than letting the case go to trial, which had been scheduled for December. MIRA Rentals, owner of the tractor-trailer involved in the accident, also was not a defendant in Schultz's lawsuit but settled out of court more than a year ago for \$500,00 Camden Iron was responsible for repairs and upkeep on the truck.

A Camden Iron representative would not comment on the settlement, but a source close company said the case was settled by its insurance company without any input from Cam Iron.

Schultz was injured in November 1999 when a truck door swung open while the truck was unloading scrap at the company's yard. In court papers, Schultz's attorney, Edward F. Ch alleged that the tractor-trailer door was a persistent problem, and numerous complaints I lodged with the company about opening and closing the doors safely.

Truck driver Daniel Sweeney testified that he had just engaged the truck's hydraulic systement open the payload doors and dump the scrap when he realized that Schultz and a co-work located in a dangerous position behind the truck. Sweeney testified that he tried but faile the system.

Schultz pushed a co-worker to safety but was struck in the left arm when the payload documents suddenly swung open. As a result of the accident, Schultz claimed he suffered persistent weakness in his left arm, numbness in his left hand and chronic lower back pain.

ssociation Meetings	Attorneys for Camden Iron had argued that Schultz suffered chronic arthritis injuries were part of a preexisting condition. Furthermore, Camden attorneys						
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